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The comet's nearest approach to N. G. C. 1535 was about April 1st, when it passed some twelve degrees west of it. It was at no time nearer than fourteen degrees to N. G. C. 1600.

It seems quite probable, therefore, that Professor SWIFT actually saw the comet some time about the 4th or 5th of April, mistaking it for N. G. C. 1453. R. G. AITKEN.

April 29, 1896.

PHOTOGRAPHS OF COMET PERRINE *a*, 1896.

On six mornings, those of February 18th, 19th, 20th, 22d, 23d, 25th, I secured photographs of this comet, using the large DALLMEYER portrait lens belonging to Hon. W. M. PIERSON, which I had temporarily fastened to the mounting of the six-inch equatorial telescope. The exposures varied in length from forty minutes to ninety-five minutes. All but one of the negatives showed the comet with at least a trace of a tail; in the first one taken, the tail was nearly or quite a degree long. Unfavorable conditions interrupted the series until March 9th, when, the comet having become an evening object, visible in the northwest, an exposure of three hours was secured. The resulting negative represented the comet with a tail about a degree and a half in length. No especially interesting features were detected in this series of photographs. A. L. C.

PECULIAR PHENOMENON SEEN AT VISALIA, APRIL 18, 1896.*

Yesterday, at 11:30 A. M., the attention of several people was attracted to a cloud in the southern heavens, wearing the colors of the rainbow. When first noticed, the hues were distinct and bright.

The sky at the time was partially overcast with light cirrocumuli, traveling eastward at a low altitude. Through and above these could be plainly seen a horizontal stratum of white cloud, which exhibited the effect mentioned. In less than a minute the colors disappeared, and the cloud again became white. Twice again within fifteen minutes the peculiar change of hue was observed, but after the first time red, purple, and a light blue were the only shades that became distinct.—*From the Visalia Delta, April 19th.*

* Communicated by GEORGE W. STEWART, Esq.